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DEC 09 1999

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CHARLIE VOOS

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MR. VOOS: My name is Charlie Voos. I'm Elko County Community Development Director and not authorized to speak for my commission at this time. But they will be apprised of the situation after tonight.

But I can certainly speak as a resident of Elko County. And although everybody here in Crescent Valley has addressed this because of the spur, first fire alarm that goes off in my head and heart is that existing rail line that is going to feed that spur goes through all four major cities in my county. Ninety percent of our population is based on that cargo, that is Wendover, Wells, Elko and Carlin. So right there and then I know that is something that we have to be concerned about.

Second point is that the main stopover for our area for crew changes, if that is the case that these trains would require crew changes, is in Elko. That is where all the major trains stop and all the crews stay.

If they are allowed to have 48-hour stopover there, that means that our -- these trains with hot loads will be sitting right there in the heart of the downtown area. I can empathize with people having homes up close to these rail lines. But I have an entire 35,000 people right there. And that's a very big concern to us.

1 Lastly, the point is that I realize we know because of these range fires that we have had, we have had a lot of right-of-way fences destroyed. Now our commission has begged three different letters to the railroads to please replace your right-of-way fencing. They haven't responded to us once.

So I can imagine what would happen later on here if we had something like this and some right-of-way fencing was destroyed. It would take us forever to get this fencing back up, and God knows what would happen at that point.

We have had people killed on our rail lines here in Elko County. And I know there is many many unprotected crossings we have. It goes through some very stiff terrain, goes over the Pequots and so on. High elevations, cold weather.

And if something happens, whether it is flash flooding, or snow or something, and these trains are backed up, where do they back up? Are they just going to stop at each one of our main cities and then we're going to have one of these trains sitting at each one of our towns? That is my concern.

Like I say, I will address our county commissioners at the next commissioners' meeting, and we'll have further input from them. But at this point as a citizen that's where I'm coming from. Thank you.